



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS
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FOUNDER
Mrs. Sybil Brand

CHAIRPERSON
Mrs. Eleanor R. Montañó

VICE CHAIRPERSON
Mr. Frank S. Bacio

Ms. Barbara Bigby
Ms. Rita Hall
Mr. John A. Hammargren
Mrs. Anne S. Hill
Mr. Carl E. Moore

MINUTES OF THE SYBIL BRAND COMMISSION FOR INSTITUTIONAL INSPECTIONS MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING SEPTEMBER 16, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Bacio called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Vice Chair Bacio led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Vice Chair Frank Bacio
Barbara Bigby
John A. Hammargren
Carl E. Moore

Excused Absence

Chair Eleanor R. Montañó
Rita Hall
Anne S. Hill

Commission Services Staff

Martha Arana
Jimmy Prieto
Andrew Sevrin

Others Present

Michael Henderson, Internal Services Department
Captain Warren Asmus, Sheriff's Department
Jewel Shaw-Bowen, Probation Department
Barbara Butler, Department of Children and Family Services
Dorothy Channel, Department of Children and Family Services
Elizabeth Howard, Department of Children and Family Services

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Vice Chair Bacio welcomed everyone in attendance and requested that Department Representatives introduce themselves.

Community Care Licensing (CCL) Division:

Alan Henry, Director of CCL, did not attend the business meeting; however, he provided the Commission with the following information:

- There have been no County-contracted Group Home closures within his office's jurisdiction for the month of August 2009.

Internal Services Department:

Michael Henderson reported the following:

- The department has had a 90% success rate in maintaining 4,000 incoming calls per month.
- The maintenance of Los Angeles County Courthouses is in the process of being transferred to the State of California. Approximately 20 County Courthouses will continue to be maintained by Internal Services Department (ISD). "*Team Jacobs*" will be the state-contracted maintenance provider for the Courthouses being transferred. Common areas of the Courthouses such as air conditioning units and elevator services will not be maintained by ISD; however, ISD will continue to provide general maintenance to specific areas at the facilities. The transition will take place over the next three years, and will conclude in June 2012. Mr. Henderson will provide a transition schedule to the Commission.

Sheriff's Department:

Captain Warren Asmus reported the following:

- On behalf of Commander Margaret Ruiz there was nothing new to report.
- The Courts began the first official "Court Holiday" closures.
- Sherriff Baca sent a letter to the courts with a request for payment of approximately \$4.5 million to cover retiree and health cost benefits for Sheriff Personnel. An answer from the courts is anticipated by October 1, 2009.
- Courts with "*lock ups*" will remain open; there is a potential for smaller courts to be displaced.
- The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is encouraging the use of Video Arraignment. Commissioners are invited to attend Glendale Court video conferencing project.
- The goal of the Sheriff's Department is to enhance video conferencing to enable the general public to access this service from home.

Probation Department:

Ms. Jewell Shaw-Bowen, Residential-Based Services, reported the following:

- For the month of August, there were no group home closures, no AWOLS, 2 cases of Physical Abuse reported, and no sexual abuse cases reported. There were 256 bench warrants processed.
- There are 12 graduating minors who will be attending college in the fall.
- The only Corrective Action Plan is with "Children Are Our Future," who are complying with their recommendations.
- There will be a 10% cut in Group Home funding per the new State budget.
- "Optimist Boys Home" currently has a horseback mentorship program assisting foster youth with developing new skills.

Michael Henderson, ISD, added that Camp Holton in the San Gabriel Valley foothills was forced to close due to the fires, and that foster youth were evacuated safely and relocated to the Central Juvenile Hall.

Department of Children and Family Services:

Ms. Elizabeth Howard reported the following:

- There were no group home closures; however, two group homes – "Ha're John's Paradise" and "New Outlook Boys Home" have a hold status. The "New Outlook Boys Home" has decided to close voluntarily, effective October 15, 2009.
- For the period of August 19, 2009 to September 15, 2009, DCFS has had:
 - Three General Neglect Referrals (2 pending, 1 unfounded).
 - Seven Physical Abuse Referrals (4 pending, 3 unfounded).
 - Six Sexual Abuse Referrals (2 pending, 1 unfounded, 1 inconclusive, 2 evaluated out).
 - 195 runaways (some were repeats).
- Watts Community Resource Fairs will be held on October 3 and 10, 2009. DCFS will be present to offer consultation to attendees regarding County services and child custody concerns.
- DCFS and Fifth District Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich are co-sponsoring the Antelope Valley Resource Fair, which will be held on September 26, 2009, at the Antelope Valley Senior Center. Seasonal flu shots will be offered and the County Library Bookmobile will be present. Representatives from many County Departments will be available to provide essential information and resources.

APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 9, 2009, MEETING MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Moore, seconded by Commissioner Bigby and unanimously carried, the minutes of September 9, 2009, were approved as submitted.

CHAIR'S REPORT

There was none.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Vice Chair Bacio reported that the current balance of the Commission's Charitable Fund is \$1,501.93.

CORRESPONDENCE/AUDIT REPORT

Vice Chair Bacio reviewed the following Audit Report with the commission:

Eggleston Youth Center – Emancipation House, Main Site and Transitional Group Homes – Audit Report dated, August 28, 2009, and found that all recommendations for this facility were met.

Touch A Life I and Touch A Life II Group Homes – Audit Report dated August 28, 2009, reported all recommendations for improvement were corrected or scheduled to be completed.

FACILITY/GROUP HOME INSPECTION REPORTS FROM SEPTEMBER 9, 2009 TO SEPTEMBER- 15, 2009

Children Are Our Future – 6, #4 – Commissioners Bigby and Hill

The facility was visited on September 11, 2009, and found to be in unsatisfactory condition.

Areas of Concern: Bathroom #1, tub shower doors need to be replaced (corroded and moldy); floors need cleaning; Bathroom #2, tub tile needs to be replaced; bedroom and bathrooms need to be painted; carpet throughout house needs to be replaced; computer is needed.

Positive Path Youth Development Center – 39, #3 – Commissioners Hammargren and Montañó

The facility was visited on September 14, 2009, but unable to inspect, no one was home.

Dream Catcher Foundation – 14, #3 – Commissioners Bacio and Moore

The facility was visited on September 15, 2009, but unable to inspect, no one was home.

Ettie Lee Home – 19, #1 - Commissioners Hammargren and Montañó

The facility was visited on September 15, 2009, and found to be in satisfactory condition.

Areas of Concern: Computer is broken; water leak underneath kitchen sink; cabinets were screwed shut and unable to inspect; *Needs and Services Plans* not updated.

NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

There was none.

MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (To be presented and placed on a future agenda)

There was none.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Bacio adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Arana
Commission Services Division